Opening of the Hennings Building

A selection of pictures and articles, some from the December 12, 1947 issue of The Daily Ubyssey, concurrent with the opening of UBC's first physics building

Then: June 23, 1948

Now: February 13, 2013

And So Begins an Age


THE DAILY UBYSSEY

HEADS PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

Gordon Shrum
Head of Physics Department 1938-1961

AND SO BEGINS AN AGE

Today we are standing on the threshold of an era . . . the era of atomic power. A hundred years ago a train of physical research came forward with steam-powered machinery. The result was expressed in the industrial revolution that followed. The changes wrought on society during that era are still being manifested.

Theoretical physics had set the pace for the development of the social structure of the world.

Today, a scant 100 years after the high point of the first industrial revolution, the world is facing an upset in industry that promises changes far more sweeping than any that could arise out of development of steam power.

Atomic power is now a reality.

On a hot summer day in the late summer of 1945 the first atomic bomb fell at Hiroshima, Japan, marking the beginning of the end of the second world war.

War had been revolutionized.

Now the world is looking to its research physicists to revolutionize industry.

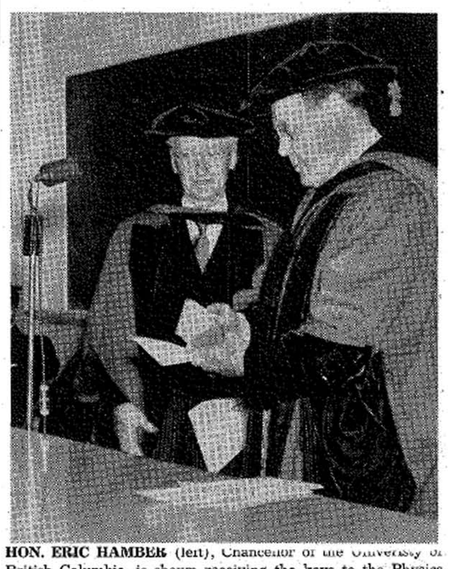
UBC's physicists are ready for the challenge. Less than a month ago the provincial government presented to the University the keys to a three quarter million dollar building designed to house huge machines of physical research.

The department of Physics has assembled a crack team of physicists drawn from all over the world, from the European centers, from Berkley (where one of the world's largest cyclotrons is located), from Chalk River, and from Oak Ridge.

The Publications Board and the Editorial Board of The Daily Ubyssey join with the students of UBC and with the people of British Columbia in saluting the department of Physics.

The future is in their hands.

OPENING CEREMONY



HON. ERIC HAMBER (left), Chancellor of the University of British Columbia, is shown receiving the keys to the Physics building from Premier John Hart at the opening ceremonies held Wednesday, October 29, in the main auditorium of the new structure. The opening of the building for "the finest physics department in Canada" was hailed as "a great moment in the history of UBC."

Chancellor Eric Hamber and Premier John Hart opening the Hennings Building

Construction photograph of 1946 showing the location of lecture theatres. L-R: Hennings 202, 200 and 201.

Modern Architecture Aids Study Of Physics At UBC

By LAURIE DYER

When officials of the Physics Department of UBC got together to design the Physics Building, they made sure that their new home was going to be as perfect as was humanly possible. Complete with all the new innovations that such a building could have, the Physics Building now stands ready to welcome the physicists of the future.

UBC's Van de Graff Generator Housed In Impressive Building

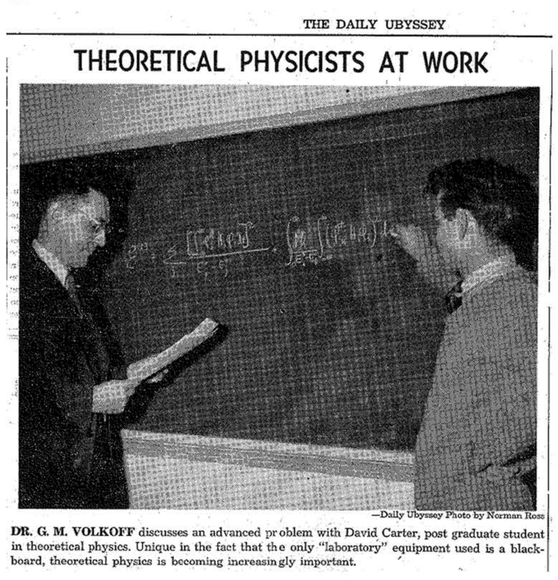
By MICKEY FYNN

Contrary to common belief on the campus, it is not a cyclotron but a Van de Graff generator that is going to be erected in the "atom lab" of the new Physics building.

See Van de Graaff poster in this series for more details (and correct spelling).

In 1947 physics was still considered cool enough to use in marketing.

Physicists at Work


THE DAILY UBYSSEY

THEORETICAL PHYSICISTS AT WORK

—Daily Ubyssey Photo by Norman Ross

DR. G. M. VOLKOFF discusses an advanced problem with David Carter, post graduate student in theoretical physics. Unique in the fact that the only "laboratory" equipment used is a blackboard, theoretical physics is becoming increasingly important.

George Volkoff and graduate student David Carter. The Ubyssey article noted the growing importance of theoretical physics

Friday, December 12, 1947

World Famous Scientists Work In UBC Physics Dept.

More than twenty world experts in the field of theoretic and experimental physics have been assembled at UBC to form the nucleus of a research and tutorial staff designed to lead the way in molecular research in Canada.

Under the direction of Dr. Gordon Merritt Shrum, head of the department of Physics at UBC, the picked crew of crack physicists include experts from all parts of the world—from United States to Europe.

MACKENZIE ACCLAIMED

A second graduate of UBC who has won nation fame in atomic research and is now professing at his home campus is Dr. Kenneth Ross MacKenzie.

Poster prepared by Alex Toews, Theresa Liao and Chris Waltham
UBC Physics & Astronomy Outreach Program

Girl Lab Instructors Show Women's Place In Physics

By PAT HENDERSON

Physicists can be beautiful.

Skeptical physics students have ample proof in the six comely physics graduates who are now instructing in the junior years.

Although bagpipes and light-plane flying may not be essential to physics Lorna Silver and Betty Booth think they help.

COMBINE WORK AND STUDY

They are two of the six girls now proceeding to their M.A.'s in Physics at UBC while instructing in the modern laboratories in the New Physics Building.

Blowden Thomas, Helen Urquart, Mercedes Fairfax, and Eleanor Mayo make up the comely contingent.

BRIGHT FUTURES

Denying that the women's place is in the home, these youthful physicienes paln to go to Ph. D. degrees and eventually to make their mark in the world's history of science progress.

Miss Thomas is presently conducting research in micro-wave spectroscopy, Miss Silver studying methods of measurement of charged particles.

Plus ça change…

100 Years of Physics at UBC
http://phas.ubc.ca

a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

UBC DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY